



# CEMETERY ROSE

*Old City Cemetery Historic Rose Garden  
Preserving California's Heritage Roses*



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**Inside this issue:**

Sacramento Rose Society Show	1
Roses From Hell	2
Editorial—Best Laid Plans	2
Rose Garden Hygiene	4
Rosy Readings	4
Bibliography	5

**How A Garden Of Old Roses Came To The Rose Show**

*by Anita Clevenger*

The Sacramento Rose Society (SRS) annual show, held this spring on April 29<sup>th</sup>, included for the first time a modest "Celebration of Old Roses."

This was one of the coldest, wettest springs in history, and the SRS members were concerned that there would be fewer roses in bloom for their traditional ARS competition and show. They knew, however, that the old Teas and Chinas in the Historic Rose Garden (HRG) at the Sacramento Historic Cemetery were in full bloom. They had an inspira-

tion: why not invite the HRG to display individual blooms and arrangements made up of historic roses? This was a win-win-win idea: the show would have more bloom, the HRG would get publicity, and the people who came to the show would be exposed to more kinds of roses. Warmer weather just prior to the show meant that many modern roses did begin to bloom, and that later-blooming old roses, including Bourbons and Hybrid Perpetuals, were also available to share with the public. The HRG's display table presented more than twenty roses, labeled by name, class, year of introduction, and remontancy. Virtually every person who passed the table exclaimed over the beauty and fragrance of the Old Roses, and expressed surprise that so many of them repeat-bloomed. It was interesting to watch people go from the HRG display to the judged OGR entries, and back again to the HRG display with more questions.

*Ann Mansker from Sacramento's ARS Chapter: Oh, yes - at the post-show wrapup, there was an easily-achieved consensus that the Historic Rose Garden display should be a consistent part of the show. In fact, Betty Ann Cassina emphasized that...we need to include specific space assigned for that purpose.*

*There was nothing but positive comment about the flowers and the volunteers who did such a good job of engaging the public. I hope the garden picked up a volunteer or two out of it.*

As Volunteers from the HRG, we stayed by the table and answered questions, encouraging people to touch and smell the roses. For many, it was their first experience

with the sticky resin of a mossed bud, or the intense fragrance of an Autumn Damask. People were intrigued by the notion of found roses, and several told us about old roses that they'd discovered. Again and again, we were asked, "What would work in my garden? Where can I get these roses?"

Rose show officials expressed delight over the public's response, and have asked us to be a consistent part of future shows. Heartened by the SRS's warm welcome and the public's enthusiasm, we assured them that we'd return.

**Cemetery Rose Garden Activities and Dates**

*Deadheading at Dusk  
July 18  
6:30-8:30 p.m.  
and  
September 19  
6:00-8:00 p.m.*



## Best Laid Plans

Sometimes you win when it seems you can't. This cold, wet spring that kept buds from opening for what seemed like weeks and generally delayed roses about three weeks had all Rose Garden volunteers frustrated.

It seemed that we could just go on pruning for weeks past the usual time and the roses still hadn't broken dormancy. Then, when they did, it rained again...a day of bright sun and three of cool rain.

As gardeners, we all need to be reminded from time to time that, contrary to our wishes, we do not control things in the garden. We can be invaded by pests, foiled by broken pipes or frustrated by lack of time.

Well, this year we had our reminder and then some. And we worked hard. Even though the roses were not at their best for the Open Garden event in April, the Historic Rose Garden was.

## Roses From Hell

We spend so much time with the roses we love; it's easy to forget those we don't. In my garden are plants I enjoy and spend time with, while the ones I don't enjoy are long gone or were never planted in the first place. A recent series of interviews has disclosed nearly as many reasons for loving or hating specific plants, as there are people. In some cases, one gardener's favorite may be another's "Rose From Hell."

When I asked various California rose lovers about the ones they hate, this is what I learned.

Barbara Oliva of the Historic City Cemetery Rose Garden received a "gift from the birds" which turned out to be a multiflora species. She kept it for some years even though it bloomed just once each spring, as it was quite lovely and fragrant. Finally removing "40-50 canes" each year (a slight

*editorial*

More roses had been pruned than in recent memory—we had time to plan it out and do it right. The paths were spiffy, weeds under control and several new structures had been added. Rose Garden volunteers had a right to feel proud of their work to get the garden ready for our event.

We were rewarded by a goodly number of visitors despite the cool, cloudy day; all eager to add more roses to their gardens. Tours, talk and other activities were very well received. So, we spoke of the late bloom and potential problems with rain, new additions to the garden and maintenance. And now, we're making plans for next year...any bets on the weather?

Contributions, complaints, greetings:  
[verlaine@citlink.net](mailto:verlaine@citlink.net) or call me at 685-6634.  
*Judy Eitzen*

*by Judy Eitzen*

exaggeration) to keep it under control became too much of an effort. Barbara filled the space left after shovel-pruning this rose with a large, modern climbing Alba, "Lemon Blush" and a Trinidad Flame Bush.

Mel Hulse of the Heritage Rose Garden in San Jose, agreed with Barbara and removed a multiflora hybrid from that garden. It's the only one they've removed because it became a problem, Mel said. "We couldn't handle it; little plants sprouted up everywhere. It was just too invasive." Mel added, "Two other roses which can be invasive are Red Bells and Pink Bells." In the San Jose garden, they've been moved to where they have some space.

Jeri Jennings from Camarillo (on the Ventura County coast) was very specific about

*(Continued on page 3)*

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*"Sometimes it's a matter of taste for color, scent or shape."*

## Roses From Hell, Cont.

*(Continued from page 2)*

her favorite Rose From Hell; it's Paul Neryon. According to Jeri, "It always rusts and mildews, even when sprayed weekly." Jeri suggested that it may perform better in hot and dry climates, but others confirm the roses' propensity for rust and mildew even in the hot, Mediterranean Sacramento Valley. Jeri's choice to replace this "rust bucket" would be any large-flowered, heavily fragrant rose such as Barbara's Pasture Rose. "It's got substance," she says.

Jill Perry, curator of the Heritage Rose Garden said that she purchased Double Delight from a commercial nursery prior to their offering only virus-indexed roses (guaranteed to be virus-free). Poor Double Delight was virused and never did well. Jill replaced it with Rosa californica (a native growing wild in the Santa Cruz mountains near her home) and the Rose of Castille.

Pamela Temple, a ceramic artist who gardens in the hills between the North Coast and Ukiah claims that she hasn't yet found a rose she doesn't like...at least something about it. Pamela does, however, caution gardeners about Charles de Milles because, "it colonizes like mad." Another caution is for Auguste Renoir which never ("literally never") opens. It balls all the time in her inland garden, though friends grow it on the coast where it does just fine.

As Jeri Jennings pointed out, "Every rose is good somewhere and every rose is bad somewhere. The trick is to find the rose/s that do well for you."

Anita Clevenger, Maintenance Manager of the Historic Rose Garden is not fond of E. Veryat Hermanos. Anita claims, "It balls and hangs on to dead balls and then does it again." Pamela agrees, adding that blooms often rot before they can open. Anita is also not fond of Clotilde Superior, another rose that balls and won't open. However, as it is just the second season for this rose, she plans to give it another year; perhaps it will behave when mature. "It's very fragrant when the blooms open - we've just got to get them open."

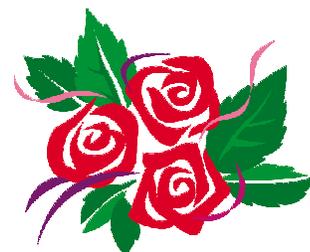
Vintage Gardens Nursery in Sebastopol has many, many antique roses in their catalog and Gregg Lowery has

probably grown most (if not all) of them. Which doesn't he like? "Any bland, thorny, scentless hybrid tea with ho-hum color." Makes sense to me. Another who is not enamored of some newer roses is Samantha Mooney. She has no patience with David Austin roses and views them as "poor copies of *real* roses" and prefers the real thing.

Sometimes it's a matter of taste for color, scent or shape. Lonnie Ratzlaff of the Historic Rose Garden doesn't care for the Green Rose (*Viridiflora*). "It doesn't appeal; no color, no scent, no nothing. It's boring." Jeri Jennings is considering removing Altissimo from her garden because the color is not her favorite. On the other hand, I like the color and plan to keep the one in my garden. Taste. Vanilla or chocolate or mint chocolate chip? Peach or pumpkin pie? Hmmm.

My own rose from hell isn't really, but is an example of "operator error." I spotted a beautiful American Beauty climber in the Cemetery Rose Garden several years ago and had to have it. I didn't check the vigor of this rose, simply went by color and form of the Cemetery plant. I put it on a pillar at the front of my small rosy area so I could see it from my kitchen window. It bloomed profusely, and grew tall and completely blocked the view of the rest of the garden. When it finished blooming each year, all I could see from the window was green. Duh! After three years or so, I reluctantly pulled it out and suddenly all those continuously blooming roses in the garden sprang into view.

So it goes in our gardens. If we keep talking to one another and keep trying new ideas, our rose gardens will be exactly right! (Or at least until we



## Rose Garden Hygiene

by Anita Clevenger

While we've known all along that it's a good idea to clean and disinfect our tools while working in the rose garden, we've been a little casual about consistently doing so. We volunteers cover a lot of ground, and care for a lot of roses. Sometimes, we stop to cut off just one or two dead or diseased canes, and then move on to the next rose. That's a good habit, but we run the risk of spreading the pathogen that caused the die-back if we don't take a moment to clean our pruning shears and loppers.

We've recently become aware that we have isolated cases of crown gall in the rose garden. We noticed corky lumps growing on the roots and the base of 'Excellenz von Schubert,' and sent them off to the state laboratory, which confirmed our suspicions. Most rose books say to remove a crown gall-infected plant, and the surrounding soil, immediately. However, this rose is in an isolated location, and shows no sign of loss of vigor. We've chosen to keep it in place, being very careful to clean our tools after pruning or deadheading it, just in case the crown gall bacteria has spread from the roots to the rest of the plant. We found crown gall in another area of the cemetery, when we removed "Miriam Wilkins," which had been mysteriously declining for several years. That made us realize that not only should we be cleaning off our hand tools, but should even disinfect shovels.

## Rosy Readings

Many of us enjoy learning more about the roses we love and grow and maintain personal libraries of books, articles, pamphlets and prints of our favorite roses, rose care, photography, drawing, history, medicinal uses and even rosy philosophy. It's no surprise to me that each year finds a new crop of books available on the subject/s of our favorite flowers. Some very intriguing books were published during the first half of 2006.

The newest of these, *Roses in Modern Gardens* by Sally Court was (oops, make that *will be*) published next month. Split into thematic chapters, this book looks at how one of the world's most popular flowers is being used by many of today's most innovative garden designers. Included is an A-Z directory of roses as well as listings of leading rose breed-

ers. During the January pruning party, one of our volunteers noticed a lesion on one of the canes, surrounded by corky bark. We thought it might be a bacterial canker, and sent it off for identification. At first, we were comforted when the state laboratory said that there was "no known pathogen" present. However, after a little bit of thought, we concluded that there could be a disease that has not yet been isolated. It's better to be safe than sorry, and make sure that our tools are clean.

Plant pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe, writing in the Jan/Feb/Mar 2006 'Pacific Horticulture,' advises gardeners not to use bleach to disinfect tools. Not only does it damage tools and clothing, even a small amount of bleach is toxic to plants. Dr. Raabe recommends using alcohol (rubbing or ethanol), or trademarked compounds such as Listerine, PineSol and Lysol. Wipe debris from tools before disinfecting them, and remove excess before resuming use. In the cemetery, we've been using a Physan solution to spray our tools, as we learned to do in Dave Andrew's horticulture classes at Cosumnes River College. Physan's label cautions us to wash it from skin or eyes if you come into contact with it, so it's not something to use carelessly. It's a broad-range disinfectant, fungicide, virucide and algacide.

If you are volunteering in the rose garden, be sure to disinfect your tools before moving from one rose to another. It's a good idea to do it at home, too. Why not take a little extra time to keep your plants as healthy as possible?

by Judy Eitzen

ers. Roses have everything and it's no wonder, then, that today's leading garden designers incorporate roses in many of their most innovative projects. With photographs of newly designed gardens that showcase roses from all over the world, and complemented by a directory of featured roses, this is an essential guide for both rose lovers and general gardeners alike.

Marilyn Raff is a certified Master Gardener, popular speaker and freelance garden writer who has volunteered at the Denver Botanic Gardens for more than 12 years. In her newest book, *Shrub Roses: Paradise in Bloom*, she introduces low maintenance roses to match any garden situation, any lifestyle, and any climate to both the novice and expert gardener. Myths, legends, and history of roses are interspersed with practical advice on how to grow your rose garden today.

(Continued on page 5)

## Rosy Readings, continued

(Continued from page 4)

*History of the Fragrant Rose* by Allen Paterson reveals the beauty and symbolism of the rose through history, and is exquisitely illustrated with historical plates and engravings.

Roses have been prized, even held as sacred, for thousands of years, celebrated in painting, music, myth, heraldry, and religion. Cultivated for its medicinal and culinary properties as well as for its fragrance, it was so highly valued in ancient times that attar of rose was more costly than gold. Abounding in lovely illustrations, this enchanting tome traces the flower's long and fascinating story, making it a perfect gift for the rose lover and the flower fancier. Allen Paterson is Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Ontario, and a former Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden in London.

Published just this April by the British National Trust, *Old Roses* by Murphy Graham is an illustrated visual guide to old roses that becomes a practical sourcebook for the gardener, offering tips on cultivation and planting as well as a guide to identification. It can also be enjoyed on other levels as a reference book for the designer or painter, or simply enjoyed for the beauty of the images alone.

Roses are the most popular garden flower—and this directory of over 200 species, from floribundas to climbers, simplifies every gardener's work while improving each garden's appearance. Amanda Beales of Ashdown Roses has compiled more than 120 images to show possibilities most gardeners never consider—first on familiar topics such as selecting, planting, and pruning their favorites, and then on new choices that expand every year. Her *Roses: A Comprehensive Guide to Care and Cultivation* includes tips on the latest solutions for year-round care, propagation, and pest and disease control and comes with imaginative ways to enhance ordinary flowerbeds with trellises and arbors, as well as how to turn difficult

hillsides, tight spots, and dark areas into places of surprising beauty. This book explains in detail all the techniques needed to keep this favored plant in good shape. Includes advice on choosing the ideal rose for every type of garden, whether light, shady, dry, and wet or even in a conservatory. The book includes step-by-step photographs and illustrations so that even a newcomer can approach growing roses with confidence.

For those who can't get enough of David Austin's new roses, *English Roses: Classic Favorites and New Selections*, his first book in ten years, was published in January. Beloved for their beautiful pastel colors and their appealing fragrance, English roses have long been garden favorites. Austin introduces 40 recently developed varieties in addition to 40 of his best-loved and time-tested favorites. Ideal for rose enthusiasts and gardeners. Beautiful photographic portraits of each are complimented by notes on attributes, history, and special requirements for growing in the garden. Ideal for rose enthusiasts and gardeners.

Novices will appreciate a final chapter with useful tips on culture and maintenance. This is more than just the definitive book on the Austin roses; it is a fine treatise on the role of modern roses in the contemporary garden.

In *Rose vcs: Beautiful Ideas for Home and Celebration* by Antonia Swinson offers beautiful ideas that celebrate the pleasure these timeless flowers bring to our lives, with ideas for entertaining, gifts and weddings. The book celebrates the beauty and romance of this timeless flower with history and poetry that combine with inspiration for using roses in your home. Stunning photographs make this a great gift for any lover of roses.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB  
[www.cemeteryrose.org](http://www.cemeteryrose.org)



Perks

Historic Rose Garden volunteers receive more benefits than one might think. Not only are volunteers able to spend time working on a project that benefits the entire community, they get to spend time learning about roses with others interested in antique roses, their history and horticulture. Volunteers are good company! Volunteers are the first to try growing roses from the Rose Garden in home gardens. Join in!

*Quick Garden Tip:*  
**Efficient Watering When Days  
Are Very Hot**

We all try to improve watering efficiency when the weather is hot. The truth?

- Antitranspirants* will not block the pores of a plant long enough to be effective.
- Adding gravel* to the bottom of a pot effectively makes it shallower & does not hold more water.
- Hydrogels* can hold up to 600 times their weight in water, but it is not necessarily transferred to the plant.
- Chopped up sponge* may improve drainage, but does not provide additional moisture.

**Bottom line:** Start with good drainage, then water slowly, deeply and saturate the soil. Stick your finger in the soil up to the first knuckle: if the soil feels dry and nothing sticks, it's time to repeat the process.

*Jeff Gillman, The truth about garden remedies*



*Garden quote*

*Any damn fool can  
have a garden in  
April and May. It  
separates the men  
from the boys  
when you've got  
an interesting  
place in August.*

*Allen C. Haskell, Horti-  
culture Magazine,  
1991*